



118 E. Seventh St.; Suite 2A Anaconda, MT 59711
ph: 406.563.5259 fx: 406.563.5476
<http://www.medamembers.org>

8 BUA
DATE 2-17-09
582

February 16, 2009

**TO: Rep. Bill Wilson, Chairman
House Business and Labor Committee
Montana State Legislature
Capital
Helena MT 59601**

RE: HB582 Green Job Training Program

The Montana Economic Developers Association (MEDA) represents over 200 professionals who work for local economic development organizations across the state of Montana. We are professional "lead" economic developers, business specialists, government employees, and staff members of affiliated non-profit organizations which promote and foster economic development activities in Montana.

MEDA encourages your support of HB582 which encompasses the "green job" training program. This bill will establish a green jobs training program within the State Department of Labor for jobs involving energy efficiency, energy conservation, renewable energy, recycling, and/or reclamation. This bill is very important because it will provide a system for how federal funds designated for green jobs in the stimulus package will be used. It will be used specifically to train workers who have lost jobs in more traditional industries, other displaced workers, or workers in need of skill "revisions" to address the demands of green jobs, and low to moderate income workers.

The bill further authorizes "industry partners" who can receive grants to participate in this training program. MEDA believes this will be a win-win for Montana businesses and workers and encourage your support of HB582.

Sincerely,

Rick Edwards
MEDA Legislative Committee Co-Chair

JOIN US AT <http://www.medamembers.org>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: JIM DAVISON, PRESIDENT, ANACONDA * BRETT DONEY, VICE PRESIDENT, GREAT FALLS *
* LARRY MIRE, TREASURER, GLASGOW * RICK EDWARDS, PAST PRESIDENT, BUTTE * GLORIA O'ROURKE, SECRETARY *
* BRIAN GION, GREAT FALLS * JIM ATCHISON, COLSTRIP * JIM SMITHAM, BUTTE * RODNEY MILLER, FT. PECK
* LESLIE MESSER, SIDNEY * ANNE BOOTHE, MALTA *
* RICHARD SANGREY, ROCKY BOY'S RESERVATION * TERRY MYHRE, HELENA * TRACY MCINTYRE, EUREKA *
* ANDY POOLE, HELENA * BOB HIATALA, BOZEMAN * LYLE PHILLIPS, KALISPELL *
* KATHIE BAILEY, LEWISTOWN * PAUL TUSS, HAVRE * STEVE ARVESHOU, BILLINGS * KEN RICHARDSON, MISSOULA *